



FACT SHEET

Module 7

Right of Way and Yielding

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Montana law defines when a vehicle or pedestrian must yield the right of way, letting another vehicle or pedestrian pass through an intersection first. Always remember that right of way is something to be given, not taken.

Pedestrians and Right of Way

Motor vehicles must yield to pedestrians when:

- The pedestrian is in a marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection.
- The vehicle is entering a street from an alley or driveway.
- The pedestrian is a blind person walking with a white cane or seeing eye dog.

Pedestrians must yield to motor vehicles when:

- The pedestrian is crossing a street where there is no crosswalk or intersection.
- Directed to do so by a traffic signal at an intersection or crosswalk.

Yielding to Other Drivers

Drivers must yield to other drivers:

When directed to do so by a yield sign. As you approach a yield sign, always slow down and be prepared to stop if there are other vehicles or pedestrians.



When entering a street from an alley, driveway, or garage after stopping. Drivers must stop and yield when exiting from a private driveway, parking lot, driveway or alley. After stopping before crossing the sidewalk, move forward to a point of clear visibility, yield and proceed when the way is clear.



When approached by an emergency or police vehicle sounding a siren and/or flashing red or blue lights.

When told to do so by a police officer directing traffic. An officer's directions always over-rule signs and signals.

After stopping for a stop sign at a two-way stop, yield to cross traffic

At four-way stops. The first vehicle to arrive at a four-way stop has the right of way. If two vehicles arrive at the same time, the vehicle on the left must yield to the vehicle on the right. At a 4-way or All-way stop, the first person to arrive should be the first person to go.

At an unmarked or uncontrolled intersection (no signs or signals). If two vehicles arrive at the same time, the vehicle on the left must yield to the vehicle on the right. The first vehicle to arrive at the uncontrolled intersection should have the right of way.

At an unmarked or uncontrolled three-way "T" intersection, where you will have to turn either right or left. You must stop and/or yield to any drivers approaching from the other two directions.

When making a left turn. Always yield to oncoming traffic unless directed otherwise by a traffic-control device.



In construction zones. Yield to all vehicles or pedestrians working on a highway construction project.



When approaching a funeral or parade procession: It is illegal to drive between or join vehicles in the formation unless you are authorized to do so by a police officer. Do not pass the procession in the right lane on a multi-lane highway unless the procession is in the farthest left lane. You may not enter an intersection when the procession is proceeding through (regardless of the color of the traffic light) unless you can do so without crossing the path of the procession. Always give funeral processions the right of way.

Entering or leaving a controlled access highway: Drivers shall yield the right of way to all vehicles approaching on the highway to be crossed or entered.

When approaching a blind person: The driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way to any pedestrian that is a blind person walking with a white cane or seeing eye dog.

When approaching a railroad grade crossing. The driver of a vehicle must yield the right of way to rail road trains and may not cross the tracks until it is safe to do so. Never drive around a crossing gate or barrier.